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# On the Places We Have Lived, with Children Not Quite Born

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# On the Places We Have Lived, with Children Not Quite Born

Lust through doors & vibrate screens like humming paper nests.

    Say you don't believe in ghosts  
    of a before-life  
    though the bedskirts rustle, & I  
have smelled you burning  
sage beneath the windows. This is an old house  
with no refrigerator  
    & we can hear them laughing in empty bedrooms.

Imagine life before kitchen cabinets:

    My father chewing  
    jars of pig knuckles, brined & coaxed

sardines between his blunt teeth:

five sisters learning to honeycomb  
    the anatomy of the absorbed twin  
    sized beds where we slept—

I emerge from the mouths  
of my sisters & become incarnations of all our mothers  
: un-fossilization of a firstborn, crowning

of the wasp queen. A father marrows  
in your baluster spine—waiting  
    & your ulnas, they vellum—filmy  
as the pregnancy of radiator air,           of me:  
Crystallize a hive in my abdomen  
    & I'll fill the cavities of my sister's molars.

You were the wasps living in our walls,  
a welcome stinging—  
    a harvest of clover & carrion:  
my ovaries staining the hardwood with a  
    *we've been waiting for you.*